



Plymouth Garden Club

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Rebecca Freer Freedman, President

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Club Flower - Plymouth Gentian

Website: PlymouthGardenClub.org

Membership

Active: 71

Associate: 15

Life: 2

Going Batty

By Joy Sand

Thanks to low-budget horror movies and general mis-information, bats have a bad reputation. Bats are exceptional garden helpers. A little brown bat can consume 4,000-8,000 insects in a night. As pest control, their diet includes midges, hoppers, moths, and mosquitoes. Not only do bats protect home gardens, they also control agricultural insects and insects which spread disease to humans. Encouraging bat population can reduce pesticide use and benefit the environment overall.

Bats are also pollinators and planters. Although the bats whose role include seed dispersal mostly reside in the tropics, they are found in the US in Florida, Texas, California, New Mexico, Arizona, and Hawaii. They contribute to the market availability of tropical flowers, fruits, and tequilla.

But bats are threatened. The 2023 *North American State of Bats* reported that 53% of bat species are at risk of extinction. Habitat loss is the primary reason. Deforestation, destruction of caves, and rapid urbanization are shrinking available roosting places. Many bat species are so specialized in their choice of

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Our October meeting **will held on Wednesday, October 14th** at the Chiltonville Church. Our program will be presented by **David Gould**, the Director of the Plymouth Department of Energy and Environment who will discuss the **Restoration of Town Brook**, a multiyear project which is in its final phase with work around Jenny Pond, and rebuilding the trail down to Brewster Gardens. The project total cost is \$20.9 million and will restore Town Brook to pristine condition allowing the herring to run upstream as they did hundreds of years ago. Social time will begin at 12:15 pm and the program will begin at 1pm. Our business meeting will follow the program, then we will enjoy our traditional tea. Guests are welcome. For Horticulture please bring in a labeled specimen from your garden. Check out the display board near the membership table with highlights of upcoming events and the binder with sign up sheets. Donations of change for the Plant a Tree Program will be collected at the meeting.

Hospitality: The Tea Committee this month is chaired by Patricia O'Brien and Norene Casey assisted by Margi Delafield, Carla Garrison, Servane Rogers, Linda Santulli, Linda Sousa and Leslie Taylor.

Ways and Means: Cathy Grote and Margi Delafield are chairs of the Ways and Means table. This month, Anne Humphrey and Rebecca Conroy will be helping. We will have canvas and insulated totes, priced to sell, note cards, garden gloves along with lovely raffle items. Autumn decorated wreaths will be for sale in the vestibule. The daffodil and tulip bulbs have arrived and will be available for pick up at the table. Did you know that proceeds from the Ways and Means Table help keep dues down and subsidize our Holiday and June luncheons?

Garden Therapy: Member Volunteers visited Plymouth Life Care Center in September. Marcia Sykes reported that the residents were eager and so delighted to participate. Cheryl Larson will chair Garden Therapy and is arranging visits to additional local nursing homes. Plan to volunteer when details are announced in future newsletters.

Art in Bloom: Art in Bloom was a great success at the Plymouth Center for the Arts with beautiful floral designs interpreting artworks throughout the galleries by members of our club and other local clubs. It brought in hundreds of visitors to the Center. Ellie Gilbert took pictures of designs and the artwork. They will be posted on our website and FaceBook page.

Floral Design Workshop: Nancy Carafoli will be leading a floral workshop before our October meeting at 10:15am. Participants will make a lovely Autumn arrangement. The cost of the workshop including all materials is \$25 by check or cash only. Bring your clippers with your name on them. There are still a few openings, call or text Debbie Wells at 617-756-8815 if you would like to join the fun and learn more arranging techniques.

roost, they can't adapt to new roosts. Our local long-eared and brown bat species have been all but eradicated by white nose syndrome, a deadly fungus.

There are some things that home gardeners can do to support bats. Eliminate pesticides. Grow plants whose blooms stay open at night, are fragrant, and have light colored petals to attract night pollinating insects. A minimally lit or dark garden with trees, stumps, bush piles nearby mimic bats' natural environment. A bat house is also helpful. But bats are choosy about their roosts; they may not accept the house.

Since bats are primarily nocturnal, encounters with humans are minimal. Keeping ventilators and roof soffits tightly covered with hardware cloth should keep bats out of attics, garages, and sheds.

Garden on, Joy!

"Beauty and adventure have a certain value of their own which can be weighed only in spiritual scales"
- Amelia Earhart

Rooted in Community, Blooming in Friendships

2026 – 2027

Our 98th Year

Founded 1929 • Federated 1971

December Holiday Luncheon: Suzanne Carchedi and Cheryl Larson are co-chairs and have ordered the same menu of favorites from the Southside Fair at PSHS including Chicken Piccata, vegetable lasagna and pink lady apple salad. The cost will be \$15 and can be paid at the October and November meetings with cash, check, and venmo at the check in table or online on our website. Members are asked to bring cookies or a dessert to share. The deadline for paying is November 20. See invitation accompanying this newsletter.

Junior Gardeners Environmental Program: We will again be visiting all the 3rd grades in the Plymouth Public Schools next spring with information on Plymouth's unique environment. The program is very much appreciated by the students. Geri Williams will be coordinating the program and needs volunteers to present the material and helpers. The visits are usually an hour or two in the morning in March and April. Geri will have a meeting in early December to train volunteers and choose dates. There will be a sign up sheet on a clip board or contact Geri at 508-833-4355 or geri3williams@comcast.net if you are interested in helping with this environmental educational program.

Library Garden Beds: Here is your last chance to participate for 2026 . A planting of daffodil bulbs at the library is scheduled on November 6th at 9am, rain date November 7th at 9am. Thank you Debbie Clark Lalley

October Field Trip October 21st: David Gould, the Head of the Department of Energy and Environment, our speaker this month, has kindly offered to lead a tour of the project along Town Brook on **October 21 at 10am**. We will meet at the Grist Mill at Jenny Pond. This is a free walk along Town Brook and you can bring a friend. To participate please sign up on the sheet on a clip board.

Holiday Greens Sale: Our Sale in December is a major fundraiser for our scholarships and community projects so we need the support and participation of all members. We will have workshops to decorate wreaths, create arrangements, and fill cemetery/porch boxes on Thurs. Dec.3 and Fri. Dec.4 in the Library Fehlow Room. Please plan to attend and help at least part of one day of the workshops and/or the sale on Dec.4 & 5. A sign up sheet will be on a clip board at the meeting. Save dried flower heads, grasses, seedpods, and pinecones, spray them with silver, gold, white or red paint. Pick up and donate small sprays, snowflakes, fake fruit, glittery flowers or ornaments that we could use on wreaths or in arrangements and baskets. If you are going through your old holiday decorations, donate ornaments, silk flowers or old wreaths. Bring all of these to the October and November meetings.

Well Wishes: If you hear about a member to whom we should send a get well or sympathy card, please notify Sally Cohen at 978-835-8998 or sallycohen88@gmail.com

Yearbook Corrections: Please correct these phone numbers in your yearbook: remove the landline numbers for Denise Faherty and Marcia Sykes and Linda O'Neill's cell phone.

Facinator Workshop: Cynthia Sykes will be hosting a Holiday Facinator Workshop on November 11 from 10am - noon at the Chiltonville Church. The fee for all supplies is \$10, cash or check only. Sign up at this meeting on the sign up sheet if you are interested. It will be canceled if there is not enough interest.